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**Lumsden Primary School**

**Lumsden**

**Huntly**

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[www.lumsden.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.lumsden.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

5th October, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the Tattie Holidays and I think with all the coughs and bugs that are around we are all ready for a break.

It has been a busy term and a big adjustment for all the parents, staff and pupils but by and large the transition has been smooth. The children have adapted well to being in one class and routines are now in place, ensuring they are all getting a good level of teacher contact time. Thank you to all the parents and members of the wider community that have volunteered to help with reading groups and support. This is much appreciated and gives the children even more chance to achieve.

There are a few activities next week to remind you of.

**Judo Taster**

On Tuesday – 10th October 2017 the children have a Judo taster session. Please remind children that they need their PE kit that day. This is a half hour session with a trained Judo instructor. The children will participate in different activities that will give them an idea of what Judo training entails.

**Parent-teacher consultations**

This is a chance to speak about your children’s progress so far this year. I am available most of Wednesday morning – 11th October 2017. You will have received an email inviting you to attend. If you have not already replied, please let us know by Monday the 9th October 2017 of your preferred time. Tea and coffee and fine pieces will be available in the hall. I will leave out the children’s jotters to give you a chance to look at some of their work either before or after our meeting. If you would like to speak to Miss Glass we can arrange a time on Wednesday. If you are unable to attend on Wednesday let us know and we can make an alternative arrangement.

**Harvest Service**

This will take place in Lumsden Church at 10am on Thursday 12th October 2017. All parents, extended family and community are invited to attend. The children have been learning hymns and practising a short play to perform on the day. There will also be a chance to donate a small gift of food. We ask that these donations are tinned or packaged food with a long shelf life. The donations will be passed to the food bank at Huntly for distribution to those in need.

This ties in with our Bounce Back work in class. This is a resilience programme and we have been studying the core values of the scheme this term. This week we have been looking at Kindness.

I would ask that if you would like to attend that you are seated by 9.50am. We need to start promptly as we are heading to Kildrummy Gardens at 11am.

**Kildrummy Gardens**

This visit ties in with our long theme topic on bridges. There is a beautiful bridge in the gardens that is based on the Brig O’ Balgownie. The children will have an opportunity to look at the detail of the bridge and its construction. They will sketch it and take photographs so follow up art work can be carried out in class.

The children will also look at the trees in the gardens – this is a follow up of tree identification that the older children took part in last term.

**Facebook and School website**

The school now has a Facebook page which gives us the chance to advertise all the great things the children are taking part in. It has quite a few followers now and I can see that many parents are looking at it. If you haven’t yet had a look go to - @LumsdenSchool.

I will also put up and coming events on the page. If there is an event advertised I would recommend that you follow the link to the school website for more detail or check your email as sometimes these events need parental permission and this will have been sent to you.

Dates and events are kept up to date on the school website by Mrs Thomson so keep checking to keep up to date with any new events.

The large year calendar that was sent out at the beginning of term should give you a rough idea of events that are part of our reporting calendar. Any events marked in red are an opportunity for you to come into school. This is also updated regularly on the website. It is worth checking from time to time as some dates do have to be changed.

**Internet safety**

Some of the children have been talking about games they are playing either on games consoles or the internet. I would like to flag up that some of the games they are discussing are certified 18 and contain graphic violence. The chat may just be playground banter and not based in truth but it is worth checking that your children are not accessing unsuitable material.

I have also some concerns that some children maybe using Facebook. 13 is the age that is recommended for having a Facebook page.

**New phone number**

The school phone system has been updated and we are now using Skype. The only impact that this has on yourselves is that we have a new number:

**01464635150**

So all that’s left to say is if you are lucky enough to be off for the Tattie Holidays enjoy the break and we’ll see you next term.

Kind regards

Jo